



# 2021/2022 President’s Report

## PRESEASON

The COVID-19 havoc from 2020/2021 caused some initial uncertainty but ski area operations became clearer through October/November 2021. Some areas had visitation and facility restrictions, but the PARA race schedule was allowed and firmed up.

The PARA BoD decided that we should plan for all events including PARA Age Championships. We had regular communications throughout the season in the event the situation turned.

All USSS-Eastern post-season events were scheduled, and PARA was issued quota slots for these events.

## MEMBERSHIP

The overall PARA Membership level saw a huge increase in the 2021/2022 season. This appeared to be true for not only the areas’ competition teams but also their development groups. This represents a 20+% increase which is non-trivial based on initial preseason uncertainty. It is suspected that families were eager to get back to some normalcy. Based on an unofficial survey of PARA clubs, there are multiple clubs stating they have waiting list participants interested in next season.

2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/2017	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021/2022
1215	1183	1197	1218	1345	1378	1444	1514	1531	1458	1695

- Increase of 21.5% for Alpine Youth (U14 and younger)
- Increase of 20.5% for Alpine Competitor (U16+)
- Increase of 6.9% for Alpine Officials

## ALPINE OFFICIALS

PARA calendared three general Alpine Officials workshops to update AOs on Alpine rule changes and new/revised procedures and offered a general refresher of the Alpine ski racing rules. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the workshops were delivered using a virtual meeting format, and Zoom (a virtual meeting software) was used to present all of this year's workshop educational updates. There was no cost for these workshops.

There was a significant reduction in the number of AO exams given this year, and this was due to most AOs attending virtual workshops and not wanting to travel to take an exam in person. There was an 80% pass rate. The creation of more online certification exams is being discussed at the national level to augment the Referee and Competition Official's exam currently in place.

## COACHES CERTIFICATION

USSS is requiring that all coaches attending USSS-sanctioned events be Level 100 Certified starting enforcement in 2022. Erik Backlund worked diligently with USSS-Eastern and other affiliations to get Level 100 training and testing done in PARA. This was a huge logistical effort and very well attended by PARA coaches. Thank you Erik for all the hard work.



## SEASON

### *Events*

Each PARA region scheduled races throughout the season. PARA U18/U21 Cup Series were run statewide with events at Seven Springs, Blue Mountain, and Elk Mountain.

PARA started a U16 Cup Series running statewide events at Seven Springs, Elk Mountain, and Blue Mountain. There were between 130-155 participants in the state-wide series. This leaves approximately 40 U16 athletes not participating. What are we doing with these athletes?

Championship Events were held towards the end of February/early March

- U12 was hosted by Ski Roundtop
- U14 was hosted by Seven Springs
- U16 Cup Finals were hosted by Blue
- U18 Cup Finals were hosted by Elk

Some COVID procedural restrictions instituted in 2020/2021 were carried forward into this season:

- Pre-event online coaches meeting; allowing for more coaching time on race day
- Team coach registration/bib distribution; alleviating race day chaos in racer registration
- Electronic/Online/SMS communications between ROC, Official, and Coaches; better and more efficient communication before, during, between, and post runs; Usage of WhatsApp as used by other USSS-Eastern regions may be a consistent and beneficial communication mechanism.

### *Eastern Projects*

- No U12 projects were established.
- One U14 Project was scheduled this season at Stratton. PARA sent 2 male and 2 female athletes (fulfilling the allocated quotas).
- The U16 projects were based on athlete submission to the USSS Eastern Development staff for consideration.

### *Competitor Focuses*

Going Forward - PARA and its member clubs need to find innovative ways to make U14 and younger athlete population focus more on making the process important vs making the actual competition the focus. How does PARA encourage more continued participation at the younger levels? What can PARA provide which helps the clubs provide a fundamental change in the way the younger age groups are addressed? How do we make competitions fun and hold the attention? Coaches' education; Divisional visit by the Eastern Youth Team; Team events/Dual-events; Events with other affiliated states?

## COMMUNICATIONS/SOCIAL MEDIA

The Instagram account (@pa\_alpineracing) continue to be used to help with both inward and outward promotion of PARA athletes and events.

The www.paracing.org website continues to be the primary vehicle for general news, announcements, and updates associated with the organization. As an organization, we should be providing short event articles with pictures stating the key accomplishments and results from all the Cup and Regional events. Promotion of our accomplishments continues to be worked. We need ROCs or club to provide a few pictures and a summary write-up of the



event/awards so that we can continue feeding the promotional machine. By using our website, we should be marketing our racers' results within state and post-season.

The website continues to be maintained via our webmaster Carrie Scheetz. Thanks, Carrie for keeping all the information up to date.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### *Number of Events and the Cost of Events*

PARA must help clubs find ways to lower the costs of events. Push for consistency in event registration pricing as well as lift ticket pricing.

We need to consider starting the events later in the season and reduce the number particularly for the younger age classifications. Our starting dates are getting pushed out while we are also being constrained on the backend of the season by earlier post-season events.

### *Website Updates*

A subgroup will be established to find the most beneficial changes needed for PARA's website/social presence for the next 3-5 years.

### *Educational Opportunities*

PARA must continue to look at promoting and providing educational needs of its membership. PARA and its clubs need to fulfill the Coaches Level 100 Certification for those coaches still requiring compliance.

Investigate focused training per season. Example – T&C, RA, Chief of Race, etc.

### *US Ski and Snowboard – Eastern*

- Investigate Eastern's plans for 2022/23 Projects.

### *US Ski and Snowboard*

- Online Officials Examination
  - Creation of more online certification exams is being evaluated at the national level.
- Coaching Requirements
  - Currently, the requirement is listed that all coaches in every sport will be required to have a minimum level 100 certification to coach at any sanctioned U.S. Ski & Snowboard Competition/Event by Spring of 2022. So going into 2022-23 season all coaches must meet this requirement.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'David Bond'.

David Bond  
President – Pennsylvania Alpine Racing Association  
[president@paracing.org](mailto:president@paracing.org)  
[www.paracing.org](http://www.paracing.org)